Ship Seized At Curacao as Raid Vessel

By Francis L. McCarthy

NEW YORK, Oct. 21 (UPI) A ship flying the Liberian flag has been seized by Dutch authorities at the Caribbean Island of Curacao on suspicion of being an armed raider.

The ship was identified as the Joanne, of 596 gross tonnage. It was towed into Curacao Sept. 23 for repairs of unspecified damage, maritime sources said. The Cuban crew, presumably anti-Castro exiles, abandoned the ship in port and disappeared.

Dutch authorities found some automatic weapons, ammunition and gun parts aboard when they searched the ship.

(On Sept. 13, the Spanish freighter Sierra de Aranzazu was attacked in Cuban waters by two unidentified armed boats apparently operating from a "mother ship." There was no immediate indication, however, that the Joanne, taken into tow ten days later, was connected with the attacks.)

The ownership of the Joanne was traced to a Liberian shipping firm, Kuestenvarsand, A. G., represented in the United States by the Bruan shipping Corp. of Baltimore.

Bruan's general manager, Lester Anderson, said the ship had been chartered for the last year by "Maritima Bam, S.A.," of Miami.

Anderson said that Bam's president was a Cuban, sixto Mesa of Coral Gables, Fla. Mesa, who has been identified as a close friend of Manuel Artime, head of the exile Revolutionary Recovery Movement, said he knew nothing of any military use of the Joanne.